

Research Activity Panel: Meeting Minutes
Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, Norté
Friday November 21, 1997
09:00 - 12:00

Introduction of members and guests (G. Cailliet)

Institution Representatives

Greg Cailliet, Moss Landing Marine Labs- Chair
Andrew DeVogelaere, MBNMS - RAP Coordinator
Lisa de Marignac, MBNMS - SAC Coordinator

George Boehlert, NOAA/NMFS/PFEL
Bruce Jafferey, USGS
Chris Harrold, Monterey Bay Aquarium
Deborah Johnston, CA DFG/ Monterey
Rikk Kvitek, CSUMB
Giacomo Bernardi, UCSC
Leslie Rosenfeld, Naval Postgraduate School
Mark Stephenson, CDFG/Mar. Pollution Studies Lab
Geoff Wheat, NOAA/NURP

At-Large

Caroline Pomeroy, UCSC/CSUMB
Les Strnad, CA Coastal Commission

Special Advisors

Gary Sharp, CIRIOS

Guests

Melanie Mayer-Gideon
Gary Greene, MLML
Kate Stanbury, MLML
Bruce Heyer, UCSC
Leon Smith, CSUMB
Jenny Carless, MBNMS Newsletter

CONSENT ITEMS:

Modifications to the agenda (G. Cailliet)

Addition under new business: NOS action plan on non-point source pollution.

Approval of the minutes for September 1997 (G. Cailliet)

The draft minutes from the September 12, 1997 meeting were approved as presented.

PRESENTATIONS

Update on Moss Landing Marine Labs re-building (Greene/Mayer-Gideon)

Gary Greene, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories Director, presented an update on the re-building of the laboratories. For the past month crews have been digging for the underground water tanks; the two tanks are half completed. Construction has been somewhat slow due to the discovery of

archaeological midden and artifacts, and several hundred legless lizards, none of which are endangered species. Pits have been dug to study archaeological artifacts. Native Americans have requested that MLML set up Native American archives, including literature and non-human remains, within MLML's library.

Dr. Greene expects that the water tanks will be completed by January 1998, with the old water tank coming down in February or March 1998. Bids are out for general contractors and at least five major general contractors have shown a serious interest in the project. Bid packages will be open on December 18, 1997 with awards in January 1998. Excavation for the major building is expected to begin by mid-April 1998. Dr. Greene is hoping that faculty and students can move in by the Fall of 1999 or the Spring of 2000.

Presentation of new MBNMS video (A. DeVogelaere)

RAP members viewed the new MBNMS video.

GIS for Monterey Bay resource management (K. Stanbury)

Kate Stanbury, Sea Grant/Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, presented an overview of the GIS project for Monterey Bay resource management. The objective of the project is to collect pre-existing spatial data on the Sanctuary,

which at this time includes information on:

- Bathymetry/political boundaries
- Aerial photography with metadata
- Landcover classification data overlaid with watershed boundaries
- Discharge Site (NPDES) locations and associated metadata
- Shoreline habitat mapping/environmental sensitivity index (for Oil Spills)
- Locations of sensitive biological resources
- Attributes of biological resources
- National wetlands inventory
- Water quality data

The project will also include fisheries data and monitoring programs.

All data will be transferred to the Sanctuary office and will be available to the public for free. CSUMB and Sea Grant will maintain the database at the CSUMB SIVA Center and MLML/Sea Grant Habitat Center.

DISCUSSION

Ricketts and Science Awards for Sanctuary Currents 1998 (A. De Vogelaere)

The Sanctuary Symposium is scheduled for March 7, 1998. Greg reviewed past recipients of the Ricketts and Science Awards, as well as current nominations. The Science/Research Award is for somebody who has made a significant contribution to science and research in the MBNMS region over the last few years.

Past recipients of the Science/Research Award were: John Martin, John Pearse, Deborah Johnston, and Bruce Robison.

Nominees so far this year are as follows: Herman Karl, Mary Yoklavich,

Leslie Rosenfield/Jeff Paduan, and Chuck Baxter.

The Ricketts Memorial Speaker is recognized for his or her significant long-term contributions to research in marine science, based in part on studying natural history and excellence in teaching. Nominees do not have to be local to the Monterey Bay area.

Past recipients of the Ricketts Award were: Joel Hedgepeth, Sandy Lydon, Gene Haderlie, Jim Childress, Dick Parrish, Dick Barber, John Martin, Walter Munk, Wayne Sousa, Steve Webster, and Gregor Cailliet.

Nominees so far this year are as follows: Gary Sharp, Ken Norris, Alec MacCall, Ed Thornton, George Somero.

The RAP decided to have an e-mail vote after "nomination paragraphs" were sent to Andrew.

Caroline Pomeroy agreed to take input on the draft schedule of the Symposium.

California Biodiversity Council's "Marine Theme" (A. De Vogelaere)

Andrew sits on the Science Coordinating Committee for the California Biodiversity Council (CBC). A handout was available, explaining the purpose of the CBC. The CBC asked Andrew to develop a "Marine Theme" to their Science Coordinating Committee. This would be essentially a state-wide RAP. The RAP was asked to discuss if this was a worthwhile effort and what institutions might be represented. The RAP felt they were not the appropriate body, suggested potential member institutions might be the USGS, NMFS, NOAA, MMS, State Parks, CDFG, CA Coastal Commission, National Parks Service, EPA, and Cal EPA, and strongly recommended coordinating with Brian Baird and the State Ocean Plan.

RAP meeting schedule (G. Cailliet)

The RAP agreed to hold nine meetings per year, on the second Friday of the month, skipping December and other dates where there are critical schedule conflicts. The next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 1998. Andrew will draft a schedule

SHORT INFORMATION ITEMS

Verbal items:

Legislation update (C. Pomeroy)

Caroline Pomeroy provided a handout on Coastal Legislation updates.

SAC membership update (L. de Marniac)

New SAC members will be named in mid-December. Note: this has been updated to mid-January 1998.

El Nino Web Page (L. Smith)

Leon Smith, CSUMB, presented a compilation of El Nino projects, which are now available on the Internet. George Boehlert expressed his displeasure at the lack of updates on the Sanctuary web page, and therefore, his reluctance to contribute to this project. Greg Cailliet will draft a memo to Joanne regarding Sanctuary web page and will bring it up at the SAC meeting.

McArthur cruise review committee (A. De Vogelaere)

Andrew is looking for a committee to review proposals. Leslie Rosenfeld, Geoff Wheat and Gary Sharp agreed to serve.

Sanctuary Currents 1998 draft program (A. De Vogelaere)

This item was discussed with the Sanctuary Awards agenda items.

Monterey Bay "Mystery Spill" (A. De Vogelaere)

The Mystery Spill occurred on Friday, October 24, 1997, centered at Sunset Beach. Initial results indicated that the spill was either vegetable or sardine oil. The MBNMS Beach COMBERS were put in charge of shoreline assessment and wildlife capture because of their unique capabilities in the region. 350 volunteers cycled through the Oiled Wildlife Center in Santa Cruz. At this point, there is no responsible party. The Center took in a total of 500 birds; roughly half died, and as of November 15, 1997 214 birds have been released. The top three species brought in were western grebes, common loons, and surf scooters. Now the Beach COMBERS are assessing how many of the cleaned and released birds are washing up on the beaches.

ATOC and LFS update (A. De Vogelaere)

The second phase of LFS was moved out of the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary will assist the Navy to develop a responsible EIR. The Coastal Commission hearing on the project will be on December 12.

Project scientists have requested that the cable be left to extend research on marine mammal impacts. Currently, SRD and NMFS have denied this permit modification.

Written items (no discussion unless there are questions):

Research Institution Video (K. Evans)

Background research continues, however the project will move more slowly until January.

Handouts available:

- California Biodiversity Council Newsletter
- Draft program for Sanctuary Currents 1998
- California Marine Sanctuary Foundation Overview
- MBNMS Permit Report
- Marine Protected Areas Of CA Conference publication

ADJOURN

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FINAL